

## 2013 Letters About Literature Level 2 Honorable Mention

Laura Browne's letter to George Orwell, author of *Animal Farm*

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Dear George Orwell,

When I first opened your book, *Animal Farm*, I wasn't sure what I would find. It was the first legitimate political satire I had ever read, and I was interested to discover its plot. Little did I know when I turned that first page that the novel would change my life forever.

In today's world, so many take the responsibility of leadership, and use it in a selfish manner. Much like your character, Napoleon, I often hear of leaders from all around the world that abuse their power and their people. Instead of serving the people that look up to them, they only care about being served, and consequently they manipulate their people in order to get what they want. Much like these leaders, Napoleon lied, murdered, and even denounced proper ethics and virtue in order to gain more power and wealth.

Not only were the rulers of Animal Farm to blame for the corruption in the leadership, but also the sheep, horses, chickens, and all of the other animals under the pigs. They were not only victims, but also bystanders. They simply watched as an evil leader took power. Maybe these animals *knew* that evil was to come with the rise of Napoleon, but they denied the fact, because they did not want to live with the fear. They enjoyed the peace of mind that came with ignorance.

Mr. Orwell, after reading your book, I was mad... at you. How could you have ended a story the way you did? All of the animals were left just staring into the house, incapable of telling man, who they thought was evil, apart from pig. While these animals were terribly ignorant, I still felt pity for them. You left the characters alone in a terrible world with no hope. No hope! I looked up from the last page dumbfounded. I had never read a book where good didn't prevail over evil. I had never read a book that ended with no hope!

Days after I had finished your novel, still astonished at the ending, I realized that there was hope, that good could still prevail. You see, I now understand the genius of your story. The hope that all of the animals were looking for doesn't come from anything written down on paper, but rather from each and every reader. The object of your master work was to inspire a

generation to stand up against corrupt government and rulers. To fight for ethical leaders and protest against the manipulation of others.

I am just a teenager now, Mr. Orwell, and I cannot directly stand up against corrupt world powers yet, but I can stand up for those taken advantage of by others around me. Almost every day, I see someone being manipulated. Someone usually attempts to use someone else, or make fun of them. But I know I cannot stand there and watch as the animals in your story did. It would be wrong to watch someone manipulating another without standing up for the victim! That was a lesson taught to me having already learned the consequences of bystanding from your novel.

I was inspired by your work, and I have decided to let you know that you have made a difference for me, and I hope that I, too, can make a difference in the lives of others. I will not watch while corrupt leaders begin to rule. I will not stand for the manipulation of myself or others. I wish to bring hope to *Animal Farm*.

Your Reader,

Laura Browne